



CITY OF HAYWARD
AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE 10/17/06

AGENDA ITEM _____

WORK SESSION ITEM WS#2

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: EBDA's New National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Requirements for Hayward's Sewer System

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council review and comment on this report.

DISCUSSION:

As the Council is aware, the City provides full wastewater service to almost all of the City residents, and to small areas in the unincorporated islands and areas located to the east and north of the City. The service includes wastewater collection, and transmission to and treatment at the City's own wastewater treatment plant. Disposal of the treated wastewater into the San Francisco Bay is accomplished through the East Bay Dischargers Authority, a joint powers authority made up of the Cities of Hayward and San Leandro, as well as Oro Loma, Castro Valley, and Union Sanitary Districts.

The City and the other four agencies formed the joint powers authority in the mid 1970s in the interest of efficiency and to reduce environmental impacts related to multiple pipelines into the Bay. This also enabled the agencies to leverage the federal and state funding that was available at the time. The City has a 33% ownership in the capital assets of the Authority, and the discharge from the City is about 20% of the total effluent discharged through EBDA. EBDA takes treated and chlorinated (disinfected) wastewater from its member agencies, and using a system of pump stations, transmits the wastewater to EBDA facilities in San Leandro, where the wastewater goes through a final treatment process to remove the chlorine to make it suitable for discharge into the Bay, before discharging it several miles offshore.

Disposal of the treated wastewater to the Bay requires an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit, issued by the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board. The permits typically have a 5-year term. The last NPDES permit was issued to EBDA in 2000 and was in effect through last month. EBDA and its member agencies applied for and recently were issued a new 5-year permit, effective October 2006 through September 2011.

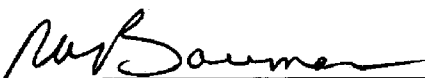
Noteworthy changes in the new permit include revisions to discharge limits for mercury and copper. Mercury limits for the combined EBDA effluent have been reduced from 21 parts per billion (ppb) in the previous permit to 8.7 ppb as an interim limit in the current permit. The limit will be further reduced to 2.2 ppb in 2010. Monitoring data indicates that effluent levels of this constituent have been decreasing, due in part to pollution prevention programs. Staff believes that EBDA will be able to meet the new limits at the combined effluent level. Wastewater treatment plant upgrades that are currently under construction will, when completed, further enhance the City's ability to meet the lower numbers. The approved copper limit is higher than in the previous permit due to the development of site specific objectives for copper levels in the San Francisco Bay, which indicate that the more stringent number is not needed. However, the EBDA effluent copper concentrations have been consistently below the 23 ppb requirement in the previous permit and are expected to decrease even further with the completion of treatment plant upgrades. It is anticipated that EBDA will be able to meet or exceed all of the other permitted effluent limitations.

Chuck Weir, long term General Manager of EBDA will provide a presentation to the City Council to briefly describe EBDA and the issues related to the new permit, as well as changes in the permit provisions and how member agencies will be impacted.

Prepared by:


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Recommended by:


Robert Bauman, Director of Public Works

Approved by:


Jesús Armas, City Manager